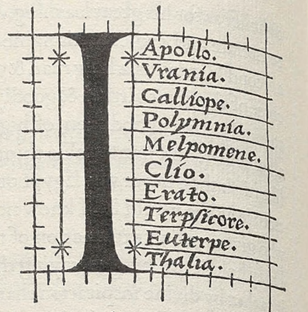
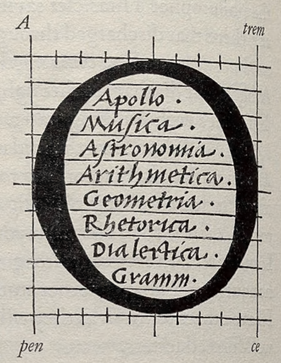


OBserve in this figure how the arrangement is governed by number and measure, as well in the horizontal as in the perpendicular lines; to show that the proper use of all sorts of knowledge comes chiefly through letters, whether by divine inspiration, which is signified by the perpendicular line, or by persistent diligence & hard study, which is signified by the medial horizontal line. In this figure I have placed the nine Muses according to the order which Martianus Capella[31] gives, well aware that Fulgentius Placiades,[32] in the thirteenth chapter of the first book of his *Enarrationes Allegoricæ,* arranges them otherwise, as may be seen by whoever cares to amuse himself by reading him in the above-mentioned place. The nine Muses were created by the ancients to signify covertly as many methods for those who seek to acquire knowledge. As is most happily & clearly set down in the thirty-ninth chapter of the book called *The Game of Chess,* in the following words. 'There is, then, this order to be observed in acquiring knowledge: *firstly,* there must needs be a firm resolution to acquire knowledge; *secondly,* one must take pleasure therein; *thirdly,* one must persevere constantly, without any great interval; *fourthly,* one must learn thoroughly the things whereon one's mind is fixed; *fifthly,* one must keep and hold in memory the things learned; *sixthly,* one must add to one's knowledge, & invent something new; *seventhly,* one must study and judge the sentences invented and digested, and then call out the best and let the others go. And, lastly, after all this one must make use of the knowledge acquired, and teach others by means of fine language and excellent method.'



I HAVE not yet forgot, God be praised, that I have said that all our Attic letters are formed from the I, and from the O, which is itself made

from the said I. I have arranged the nine Muses & Apollo around the I. I propose in like manner to arrange the seven Liberal Arts, not around the O, but within it, as you can see in the figure I have drawn here. I make these two diagrams the better to confirm what I have written above, and to show how the good Ancients were so virtuous that they were desirous to establish in the designs of their letters all perfection and harmony, as well without as within the said letters—that is to say, as well when written apart by themselves, as when fixed in the memory of good men. The curved outline which you observe in the O, and the way in which it is set in its square, signify that the seven liberal Arts, enshrined in our memory, must be practised by the constant revolving of the books and instruments adapted thereto. Our memory is always as easily set in motion as the wheel of a mill or of a clock, and it must always be driven by the stream of Dame Diligence and aided by the counterpoise of labour. By the square—the figure hereinbefore called an equilateral superficies or plane—is understood *Atrempence,** wherein is the seat of our said memory, which of its nature desires only to exercise itself in the seven Liberal Arts & other goodly matters; wherefore I have written at the four corners of the square, the four syllables of *Atrempence.* But I must not fail to say here that the Ancients by this square understood Dame Μνημοσυνη, Mnemosyne, which is as much as to say in Latin, *Memoria,* & in French, *Memoire.* According to Hesiod this lady is called the mother of the nine Muses; † that is to say, that they are nourished by Memory, as are also the seven Liberal Arts written in the drawing. Μνη-μο-συ-νη, too, is written in four syllables, which may in like manner, according to the meaning of the Ancients, signify the four corners of the square, at which one could write the said four syllables, as I have done with *Atrempence.* And, the better to reconcile them, Memory and Moderation are so near akin that one cannot be without the other. A giddy-pated man, lacking moderation, seldom has any memory, as we learn every day by experience. And, on the other hand, a sober-minded & moderate man is ordinarily more memorative than another & of more acute understanding. For which reason, therefore, the roundness & motion of the nine Muses and seven Liberal Arts consist in perfect memory, which is divinely represented in this drawing of the O, and in its square, heretofore drawn.

I Must not omit to tell here a fine riddle of Virgil's, in his second Eclogue, called 'Alexis,' to show that harmony finds its way into letters

* *See the four corners of the drawing. This word, usually written 'Attrempance,' means temperance, moderation.*

† *Theogony,* 54.

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